



ILLINOIS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (IATP) STATEMENT ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND POLICE CONDUCT

IATP joins other groups in Illinois and elsewhere in condemning the recent senseless and horrifying deaths of Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta, George Floyd in Minneapolis, MN, Breonna Taylor in Louisville, KY, and other African-Americans by police officers. Police are duty-bound to serve and protect members of their communities, and unfortunately their failure to fulfill this duty has resulted in the deaths of unarmed African-Americans.

While IATP fully supports police in carrying out their duty to serve and protect, we strongly oppose the use of excessive and unnecessary force. We condemn the discriminatory use of police power and authority. We oppose racism in general and abhor the culture of racism that is pervasive in some law enforcement agencies, which must be eliminated.

IATP calls for urgent positive change through education and training, mutual understanding and respect, civil discourse, social justice, and meaningful access to a fair and impartial system of justice, regardless of race, ethnicity, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, religion or age.

Finally, IATP supports the full exercise of free expression through peaceful marches and rallies. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said in 1967: "If you can't fly, then run; if you can't run, then walk; if you can't walk, then crawl. But whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

June 15, 2020